Closing down the unmanned level crossings

*70. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unmanned railway crossings in the country, State-wise and zone-wise;

(b) whether the Railways has planned to close down all unmanned level crossings to prevent accidents for reasons of insufficient traffic;

(c) whether the Railways has sought the consent of the States to enforce this proposal;

(d) whether this proposed move by Railways has been challenged in courts as violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Number of unmanned level crossing (State-wise and Zone wise) as on 31.3.2004.

STATE	UNMANNED*	RAILWAY	UNMANNE
Assam	602	Uttaranchal	109
Andhra Pradesh	1392	West Bengal	1438
Bihar	1208	Chandigarh	1
Chhattisgarh	374	Pondicherry	9
Delhi	1	Goa	0
Gujarat	2797	Central	739
Haryana	328	Eastern	574
Himachal Pradesh	349	Northern	2546
Jammu & Kashmir	29	North Eastern	1886
Jharkhand	559	Northeast	1213
Kamataka	837	Southern	1395
Kerala	133	South Central	1411
Madhya Pradesh	1071	South Eastern	1092
Maharashtra	1302	Western	2944
Manipur	3	East Central	1070
Mizoram	17	East Coast	1032
Nagaland	0	North Central	678
Orissa	951	North Western	1919
Punjab	962	South East Central	910
Rajasthan	1940	South Western	917
Tamil Nadu	1272	West Central	**412**
Tripura	0	South Western	917
Uttar Pradesh	3054	West Central	**412**
Total Unmanned			20738

The figures are inclusive of D Class Cattle Crossings.

(b) No, Sir. Only a certain number of level crossings where there is meager/no traffic or traffic can be diverted through nearby level crossing/ bridges, have been identified for closure.

(c) State Government authorities are regularly approached by Railways for their consent for closure of such level crossings. Only on receipt of the consent and after obtaining the approval of Commissioner for Railway Safety such level crossings are closed.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, a Writ Petition (Civil No. 162 of 2001) has been filed before Hon'ble Supreme Court by Consumer Education and Research Centre (CERC), Ahmedabad, seeking *inter-alia* a direction to the respondent Union of India through the Ministry of Railways for immediate conversion of the unmanned level crossings into manned level crossings.

Construction of FCI godowns

*71. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial allocation and present capacity of godowns of FCI in different parts of the country;

(b) the number of godowns proposed to be constructed in the country during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The financial allocation made to the FCI for construction of storage godowns and related infrastructure for the year 2004-05 (RE) and 2005-06 (BE) are Rs. 5.66 crore and Rs. 14.45 crore respectively.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has a total storage capacity of 256.22 lakh tonnes all over the country as on 31.12.2004. The State-wise details are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) Storage capacity to the tune of 93,600 tonnes and 39,500 tonnes is likely to be created by the FCI during the year,,2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The State-wise details are given in Statement-I I (See below).